



April 13, 2023

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 381 (Rubio), Teacher Credentialing: Services Credential with a Specialization in Health: Occupational and Physical Therapists: *Support Position*

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi,

The Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC), at its March 2023 meeting, adopted a Support position on AB 381 (as introduced 2/2/2023), which would amend existing law by allowing occupational therapists and physical therapists who work in the schools to obtain a Health Services Credential like other health care professionals working in school settings.

The PTBC recognizes that this bill would minimize barriers by providing access to care for California consumers within the school districts. Occupational therapists and physical therapists have long recognized the benefits of authorizing a pathway to credentialing within the California public schools. Access to a credential will allow occupational therapists and physical therapists to have expanded professional growth opportunities within school systems and to have a broader positive impact on the students and families they serve.

Providing access to a credential will recognize the unique and specialized value of occupational therapists and physical therapists in school districts and allow for school districts to recruit, hire, and retain highly qualified therapists and in addition, open new opportunities that are already afforded to other related service providers that are already credentialed.

The PTBC is mandated by Business and Professions Code Section 2602.1 that PTBC's highest priority is to protect the public. The provisions outlined in AB 381 would greatly benefit California consumers and eliminate delays in services for children in school settings and provide timely access to care, therefore, we are in Support of AB 381.

If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact the Board's Legislative Manager, Brooke Arneson at (916) 561-8260.

Sincerely,

Tonia McMillian

President, Physical Therapy Board of California

Cc:

The Honorable Assemblymember Blanca Rubio

Honorable Members, Assembly Education Committee

Jennifer Simoes, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, Deputy Director, Division of
Legislative Affairs, Department of Consumer Affairs